

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057431

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:FRG ASSISTANCE FOR SAHEL FOOD DELIVERY SYSTEM

REF: BONN 03170

1. USG VERY INTERESTED IN COORDINATED DONOR APPROACHES WHICH WILL ASSIST SAHEL COUNTRIES MEET THEIR FOOD REQUIREMENTS. IN ORDER COMMENT ON SPECIFIC FRG PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL, HOWEVER, AID/W REQUESTS FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON INTENDED FRG APPROACH.

2. IS PRIMARY FRG OBJECTIVE TO HELP ENSURE A SMOOTH, EFFICIENT FLOW OF FOOD FRON SURPLUS AREAS (EITHER ABROAD OR IN-COUNTRY) TO FOOD DEFICIT AREAS OF SAHEL COUNTRIES?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 057431

3. OR, IS FRG EMPHASIS MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO AUGMENTING SAHELIAN FOOD PRODUCTION BY IMPROVING LOCAL EFFICIENCIES IN THOSE AREAS WHICH WILL STIMULATE INCREASED PRODUCTION (E.G., MARKETING, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, ETC.)?

4. IF FRG INTEREST IS AS STATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT PROPOSED PROJECT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO DROUGHT AFTERMATH NEEDS, WOULD FUNCTION WITHIN A TWO-TO-THREE YEAR FRAMEWORK, AND COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER BRIEF BUT INTENSIVE HOST COUNTRY/OTHER DONOR COORDINATING SESSIONS.

5. WHEREAS, IF FRG EMPHASIS IS AS STATED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT PROPOSED EFFORT WOULD INITIALLY BE APPROACHED AT THE PROGRAM LEVEL AND EVENTUALLY EVOLVE INTO SEVERAL INTERRELATED PROJECT ACTIVITIES (E.G., MARKETING, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, ETC.) AFTER PROGRAM ANALYSES WERE COMPLETED. FURTHER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN A FIVE-TO-TEN YEAR FRAMEWORK AND WOULD REQUIRE CLOSE DONOR COORDINATION (IN VIEW SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL INPUTS CURRENTLY PLANNED BY OTHER DONORS IN FOOD PRODUCTION AREA IN SAHEL) AS WELL AS TIME CONSUMING HOST GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. DISTINCTION DRAWN IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE IS OUR ATTEMPT TO ASSIST IN CLARIFYING REFTEL APPROACH. FRG MAY HAVE NEITHER APPROACH IN MIND OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH. AID/W WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FURTHER AFTER RECEIPT BONN CLARIFICATION. INGERSOLL

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